October-December 1998 Volume 24, Number 2

A summary of recent news stories from the University of California San Francisco

UCSF

To Our Neighbors

A worthy approach to vaccine development

Researchers led by scientists at UCSF say they have made a significant breakthrough in their attempt to reengineer the poliovirus so that it could some day be used to induce immunity against disease pathogens.

The finding could ultimately have implications for developing reengineered poliovirus vaccines for HIV, hepatitis B, other viral diseases and cancer, says Raul Andino, PhD, an assistant professor of microbiology at UCSF.

Recombinant viruses, engineered with foreign DNA fragments, are considered a promising approach to vaccine development because viruses replicate in a variety of host cell types and, in their natural states, induce responses from the immune system.

Two types of viruses, vaccinia and adenovirus, have already been used to develop recombinant vaccines for a variety of pathogens, but poliovirus could provide an alternative for situations in which these viruses cannot be used, Andino says.

Moreover, poliovirus offers the advantages of safety and the ability to induce long-lasting protective immunity. It is also easy to administer orally, is sufficiently low in cost to enable distribution in the developing world, and can induce local immunity at mucus membrane sites. This targeted local immunity, says Andino, could potentially offer protection against respiratory or gastrointestinal pathogens or diseases that gain access through mucosal ports of entry, such as sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

The research was supported by a Public Health Service grant and several National Institutes of Health grants.

UCSF to host meetings on Mission Bay

The public will have a few more chances to comment on the plans for UCSF's biomedical research campus at Mission Bay at upcoming meetings.

- University officials will host a town hall meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 12:10 to 1:30 p.m., in Health Sciences West, room 300 on the Parnassus campus, as part of its lunchtime lecture series.
- The Community Advisory Group (CAG) will discuss the new campus at its next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California St., President's Room, Sublevel One.
- A community meeting to discuss a draft of the Mission Bay master plan and designs for the first two buildings will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5 at the ILWU Hall, 4 Berry Street.

UCSF's 43-acre campus is expected to form the centerpiece of San Francisco's new life sciences hub on the eastern waterfront. Ground breaking for the first two UCSF buildings, to be built at Seventh and Owens streets, is targeted for late 1999.

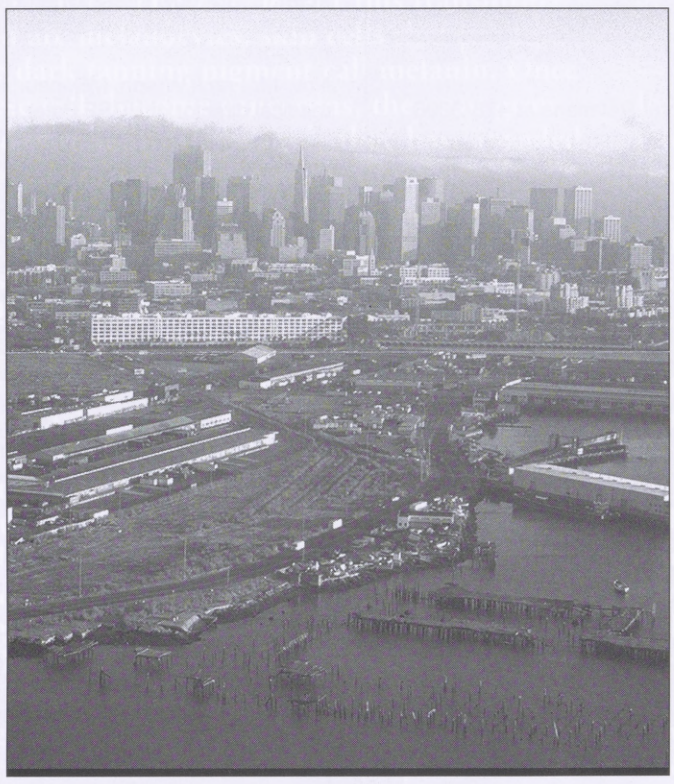
The University hopes to finance one building by securing $21 million in state construction funds through voter approval of a state general obligation bond measure on the Nov. 3 ballot. (See story below.)

The entire $4 billion Mission Bay project, to be developed by Catellus Development Corp., will include more than 6,000 housing units, private biotechnology companies, a public school, a 500-room hotel and about 47 acres of public parks. About 1,700 of those housing units will be affordable for low- to moderate-income residents.

The Sedway Group, a real estate and urban economics firm retained by the City and Redevelopment Agency, reported recently that the City and other local service providers, such as the San Francisco Unified School District, will benefit from a significant revenue stream generated by Mission Bay, totaling about $500 million over 30 years. This calculation assumes the City receives traditional federal and state funding to finance Muni capital costs required to service Mission Bay.

In addition, a total of 31,100 direct employment opportunities, excluding construction jobs, will be available at Mission Bay when it is fully developed, according to the Sedway Group.

While UCSF's plans are still a "work in progress," the interior designs of the first two buildings are a product of the "intense process of interaction with the users" — the faculty, says architect Daniel Solomon of Solomon Architecture. Advising throughout the planning process, faculty came forward with very definite ideas on how to configure their working environment. And as such the current designs "reflect how scientists work at UCSF," Solomon says.



David Powers

Designs for UCSF's first two buildings are being tailored in conjunction with the ongoing development of the master plan guidelines drafted by architects Machado and Silvetti Associates, working in association with the San Francisco firm, Gordon H. Chong & Partners, as well as faculty and campus planners.

State bond measure could benefit UCSF

A $9.2 billion bond measure, Proposition 1A on the Nov. 3 ballot, includes $21 million in financing to construct one building for the UCSF Mission Bay campus.

"This bond measure is crucial to the University of California's efforts to correct seismic deficiencies, repair and modernize aging buildings, and construct new facilities to accommodate rapidly growing enrollments," says UC President Richard C. Atkinson. "Our needs are urgent, and this measure is an absolutely vital means of addressing them."

The UC system's long-term facilities needs are estimated to total more than $400 million annually. This new bond measure would provide the system with about $210 million per year in capital outlay funds for four years. The University will supplement these bond resources by raising private funds and by using UC's operating budget to help finance deferred maintenance projects.

Study looks at hormone therapy and heart disease

A major clinical trial led by UCSF researchers and colleagues at 18 medical centers in the US found that estrogen plus a progestin did not decrease the overall risk of heart attack and coronary death among postmenopausal women with previous heart disease.

Hormone therapy appeared to increase the risk of heart attack in the first year of treatment and then to decrease it after two years of treatment, researchers found. The two effects balanced out, so that the number of women who had heart attacks or coronary death over the whole four years was similar in women who took hormones and in women who did not.

"Based on these findings, we don't recommend starting estrogen plus progestin for the purpose of preventing heart attacks in postmenopausal women with existing heart disease," said Stephen B. Hulley, MD, professor and chair of epidemiology and biostatistics at UCSF. "There was no overall benefit during the four years of the trial, and the risk of heart attacks seemed to increase soon after starting hormones. But women who are already taking estrogen plus progestin could decide to continue, given the apparent decrease in risk of heart attack after several years."

Crohn's disease study

Pediatric gastroenterologists at UCSF have begun enrolling children aged 5 to 18 in a clinical trial of a new nutritional therapy for Crohn's disease.

The purpose of the study is to investigate the potential role of a highly specialized nutritional product to achieve remission of Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammation of the small intestine that may involve many or all parts of the gastrointestinal tract.

"Crohn's disease is especially serious in children because in addition to the symptoms they share with adults — diarrhea, abdominal pain and fever — children with this disorder often fail to grow normally," says Mel Heyman, MD, chief of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition at UCSF and a pediatric gastroenterologist with Lucile Packard Children's Health Services at UCSF.

For more information about the clinical trial at UCSF, please call 476-5892.

Program offers free minor surgeries to uninsured

A coalition of dedicated health care professionals in the Bay Area is delivering free outpatient surgical services to patients who cannot afford the cost of care.

Schecter

Bill Schecter, chief of surgery at San Francisco General Hospital since 1992, provides low-risk surgeries for low-income uninsured people as part of Operation Access, a program he co-founded in 1993 with fellow surgeon Doug Grey, MD, an associate clinical professor at UCSF.

Today, more than 100 surgeons, nurses and anesthesiologists from seven Bay Area hospitals, including UCSF/Mount Zion, part of UCSF Stanford Health Care, treat individuals who may have otherwise delayed or avoided elective surgeries for minor problems due to lack of funds or medical insurance.

"Our organization is based on the premise that health care professionals and hospitals have a moral obligation to provide care to patients who are otherwise unable to pay," Schecter, MD, says.

For more information on Operation Access, call 931-3866.

What's happening

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Special Events

FIFTH ANNUAL GALANTE LECTURE

The Fifth Annual Galante Lecture features Francis S. Collins, head of the Human Genome Project at the National Institutes of Health, who will speak about "Contemplating the Completion of the Human Genome Sequence" at UCSF's Cole Hall at 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19. A leader in the fields of molecular biology and genetics, Collins oversees what may be the most important scientific undertaking of our time — to identify and map the sequence of all human DNA.

This lectureship honors Maurice Galante, UCSF professor emeritus of surgery who trained scores of residents and treated many patients, some of whom have expressed their gratitude through donations to support programs like this one.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

UCSF's employee activities program, EMPACT!, hosts its annual Halloween carnival — with costume and pumpkin-caring contests — from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, at the Millberry Gym, Parnassus.

Chris T. Anderson

Cassandra Laine as "sunshine" at last year's Halloween carnival

MISSION BAY COMMUNITY MEETING

UCSF hosts a community meeting to discuss the "Draft Mission Bay Campus Master Plan" and the proposed design for the first two buildings on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU), 4 Berry St., near 2nd and King streets. For more information, call UCSF Community & Governmental Relations at 476-3206.

FALL GIFT SHOW

EMPACT! invites the public to the 3rd Annual Fall Gift Show, on Thursday, Nov. 5, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Millberry Gym, Parnassus. For more information, call 476-2675.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS FAIRE

EMPACT! hosts the 9th Annual Holiday Crafts Faire, on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Millberry Gym, Parnassus. Buy handmade crafts created by talented UCSF employees and community artists. If you're interested in selling your crafts or creations, call 476-2675 to get an entry form, or visit the website at www.empact.ucsf.edu.

Center for Gender Equity

The Center for Gender Equity, formerly the UCSF Women's Resource Center, will host a number of events this fall, including the UCSF Women of Distinction Series of lectures in October. For more information, call 476-5222.

Oct. 14: Jean Shinoda Bolen, MD, a Jungian analyst and UCSF clinical professor of psychiatry, presents a lecture based on her new book,Close to the Bone: Life-Threatening Illness and the Search for Meaning, noon-1 p.m. A book signing will follow from 1-1:30 p.m., C 701, Parnassus.

Dec. 9: Loma K. Flowers, MD, UCSF associate clinical professor of psychiatry, presents a lecture based on her book, Dreams, Tears & Laughter: 30 years in 50 Minutes, noon- 1 p.m.. A book signing will follow from 1-1:30 p.m. Call for location.

Recreation

Millberry Programs & Services. UCSF Millberry Programs & Services offers hundreds of classes, clinics and workshops to keep the bodies and minds of both adults and children motivated, stimulated and fascinated. Here's just a glimpse of the offerings:

The Millberry Fitness Center. Open weekdays from 6 a.m.-10 p.m. and weekends from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., the fitness center is open to the public for club membership in addition to faculty, staff and students at UCSF. For more information or to receive a new catalog of program offerings, call 476-1115.

Outdoors Unlimited. **A cooperative resource center for outdoor** recreation and adventure rents cabins on the south and north shores of Lake Tahoe, plus an array of equipment for camping and recreation. OU offers classes in sea kayaking, whitewater rafting, backpacking, first aid and CPR and organized camping and sailing trips as well as other outdoor activities. For more information, visit the website at www.outdoors.ucsf.edu/ou or call the center at 550 Parnassus Ave., under the campus library at 476-2078.

Brown Bag Lectures

UCSF Public Service Programs, part of Public Affairs, offers free lectures from 12:10 to 1 p.m. at three campus locations. Lectures are held on Wednesdays on the Parnassus campus in Health Sciences West, Room 300, 500 Parnassus Ave. (P), on Tuesdays at UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center, Herbst Hall, 2nd floor, 1600 Divisadero St.(MZ), and on Thursdays at the Mission Center Building, Board Room, 6th floor, 1855 Folsom St.(MCB). Call 476-4394 for more information.

Oct 7: Stephen B. Hulley, MD, professor and chair, department of epidemiology and biostatistics; Center for Health and Community, UCSF, presents **Hormones and Heart Attacks?** The surprising results of the heart and estrogen/progesterone replacement study, the first major randomized trial of hormone treatment after menopause to prevent heart attacks. (P)

Oct. 14: Virginia L. Ernster, PhD, professor and vice chair, department of epidemiology and biostatistics; Center for Health and Community, UCSF, presents **Breast Cancer: Why the Modern Woman Is at Risk.** Learn why breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women. (P)

Oct. 15: Alice Do, certified CPR instructor, presents **Community CPR and First Aid.** Learn how to save lives and ensure the safety of your children and family members by taking this one-hour mini course to update your skills and knowledge of first aid and CPR. (MCB)

Oct. 20: Ernest H. Rosenbaum, MD, clinical professor, UCSF/Mount Zion, UCSF Stanford Health Care, presents **Cancer Supportive Care.** Get a comprehensive guide for cancer patients and their families. (MZ)

Oct. 21: Daniel Solomon, principal architect, Solomon Inc., Architecture and Urban Design; Zach W. Hall, PhD, vice chancellor, research, UCSF; Bruce Spaulding, vice chancellor, University Advancement and Planning; and Robin Jones, assistant vice chancellor, Campus Planning, present **Building Mission Bay.** A town hall meeting on the latest building plans for UCSF's new biomedical research campus on the city's eastern waterfront.This lecture will be broadcast to SFGH's Carr Auditorium, MCB's 4th floor Commons and UCSF/Mount Zion's Executive Board Room. (P)

Oct. 28: Mark Ryder, DMD, professor, division of periodontology, School of Dentistry, UCSF, presents **From Gums to Guts, from Glucose to Gynecology.** Hear about the emerging relationships between periodontal diseases and human health. (P)

Nov. 4: Mardi J. Horowitz, MD, professor, psychiatry, UCSF, director of Center on Stress and Personality, presents **Cognitive Psychodynamics: From conflict to character.** Learn how stress when handled with resiliency can lead to character traits such as courage. (P)

Nov. 11: Frank Wilson, MD, neurologist, medical director of UCSF Peter F. Ostwald Health Program for Performing Artists; Author, "The Hand," presents **Hidden in the Hand.** Wilson will explain where the human hand came from, how it shaped the brain of Homo sapiens and how its evolutionary history affects how we live our lives. (P)

Nov. 17: Gary M. Abrams, MD, chief of neurology, director of rehabilitation, UCSF/Mount Zion, sssociate professor, clinical neurology, UCSF Stanford Health Care and Pamela Jane Nye, RN, MS, director of Post Acute Care Services, present **Taking Stock of stroke: What are your risks and what can you do to minimize them?** (MZ)

Nov. 18: Gina M. Wade, RN, MS, assistant clinical professor, Community Based Health Systems, School of Nursing, UCSF and GERI COLLINS-BRIDE, RN, MS, ANP, assistant clinical professor, Mental Health Nursing, UCSF, present **Webcare: Online Nursing and the Internet.** Hear how to use the Internet to educate patients and caregivers. (P)

Nov. 19: Jason Lerner, PT, senior physical therapist, UCSF Stanford Health Care, presents **Is your job a pain in the neck?** Learn about the prevention and management of neck and upper extremity overuse and how to make a less than ideal work situation work. (MCB)

Nov. 25: Julie Matel, MS, RD, dietitian, UCSF Stanford Health Care, presents **Low Fat Feasting for the Holidays.** Learn strategies for making healthier food choices and avoiding weight gain during the holiday season. (P)

Dec. 2: Sharon M. Hall, PhD, professor, vice chair, department of psychiatry; Center for Health and Community, UCSF, presents **Breaking the Bonds of Bad Habits and Addictions.** Take part in a discussion on the development of addictive behaviors and effective methods for changing them. (P)

Dec. 9: Warwick J. Peacock, MD, pediatric neurosurgery, UCSF Stanford Health Care, presents **Brain, Heal Thyself.** Discover how the brain develops before and after birth and how it heals itself.

Aging Education

The UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging offers free half-day workshops designed for seniors. Pre-registration is required as seating is limited. For more information, call 750-5342. Programs are held Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California St.:

Oct. 17: Learn about personal safety, home safety, accident prevention and financial fraud.

Dec. 5: Learn about the effects of aging on memory, tips on keeping mentally fit, and the latest advances in the management of Alzheimer's disease.

Breast Cancer Screenings

Women can have low-cost mammograms — X-rays to screen for breast cancer — from the UCSF mobile van that was designed to make mammography both available and affordable to women with no known breast problems.

To be screened by the UCSF van, women need the approval of their physician, in addition to their doctor's full name, address (including room number & zip code) and phone number to assure that results are mailed promptly. The procedure takes about 20 minutes and costs $75, which is payable at time of service by personal check, Visa or Mastercard. Call 353-3825 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to make an appointment.

Volunteer Program

Volunteer Service acquaints prospective volunteers with opportunities to lend a helping hand at the medical centers at UCSF and UCSF/Mount Zion, part of UCSF Stanford Health Care. For dates, times and locations or orientation schedules for Parnassus, call 476-1196. Call 885-7353 for an orientation schedule at UCSF/Mount Zion.

Art Exhibits

The UCSF Faculty Alumni House presents "Industrial Romance," paintings by Celia Rabinovitch through February 1999. An opening reception for the artist will be held Oct. 7, from 5-7:30 p.m., at the UCSF Faculty/Alumni House, 745 Parnassus Ave. The house is open weekdays or by appointment. For more information, call 476-4723.

The Hospitals Auxiliary of the UCSF Medical Center exhibits landscapes of China by photographer Ji Guo Liang through Oct. 26; etchings and original gift cardsby Alice Gibbons through Nov. 22 and hand-colored etchings of native California trees and landscapes by Claus Sievert through Dec. 27. For purchase and for more information, call the Hospitals Auxiliary at 476-6906.

Blood Drives

Blood donations are accepted at the Blood Center, 505 Parnassus Ave., Room L 131, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No appointment is needed. For more information, call 476-6989. Here's the schedule for upcoming blood drives, which include chances for raffle prizes.

Oct 14: 9-5 p.m., MU Conference Center, Parnassus.

Nov 4: 10-5 p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero St.

Nov 18: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mission Center Building, 1855 Folsom St.

Dec. 2: 10-2 p.m., Laurel Heights, Chancellor's Conference Room, 3333

FOR DAILY ONLINE NEWS
UCSF daybreak
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Cancer has been an emotional roller coaster

But Karen Wener is determined to get the best out of what she hopes is the long and smooth part of the ride.

Surgery and treatment at UCSF in 1982 rid her of uterine cancer, but eight years later another cancer — melanoma — surfaced. It appeared first on her upper left arm as a white dome-like pimple which she constantly picked. It was not the typical dark, ragged-edged mole that dermatologists so often warn of, but her husband Mike urged her to get it checked. When the diagnosis came, "I felt like I was knocked over," Karen says.

The light-skinned, freckled sun worshipper fit the mold of someone at risk for melanoma, which strikes about 42,000 in the US each year and causes 79 percent of skin cancer deaths. At first, she blamed herself for those long days on the tennis courts and the times as a youngster that she laid in the sun until her skin blistered and burned. Melanoma can take years to appear and when it does, it can hide inconspicuously amidst the 10 to 30 moles that the average person harbors, or transform one or more of those benign spots into cancer. The vehicles for this transformation are melanocytes, skin cells that produce the dark tanning pigment call melanin. Once these cells become cancerous, they can grow uncontrollably. If the mole they have invaded or created is not removed, it can grow. Melanoma cells then spread to other organs via the lymphatic system, invading and destroying as they multiply.

Robert Allen, a surgeon at UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center, part of UCSF Stanford Health Care, and a leader in treating malignant melanoma, removed the cancerous blemish and a section of the lymph nodes from her left arm. Tests showed that the melanoma had not spread, but doctors warned there was a risk of recurrence.

Karen went on with her busy life — painting and decorating homes and businesses and, in her spare time, volunteering at UCSF and UCSF/Mount Zion medical centers — knowing that a cancer time bomb was ticking. Four years later in 1994, another lump, this time below her neck, signaled that the cancer had returned. But Karen, by then a cancer veteran, quickly went from "numbness to awareness" to get a handle on her condition. Again, Allen surgically removed the malignant tumor, but he and other specialists at the Melanoma Detection and Treatment Center at UCSF decided that they had to find a better way to thwart Karen's cancer. The nearly 30-year-old center, one of the first melanoma programs and one of only a handful of its type in the US, has one of the country's largest collections of clinical data on the natural history of the disease, based on the thousands of cases it has seen. The team of specialists, ranging from surgeons, pathologists and psychologists, analyzes each case and recommends a course of treatment that best suits the individual patient.

By then, Karen had learned how to become a "nosy" and informed patient and she wanted to be fully aware of all her options. "Through my bouts with cancer, I had learned how to become incredibly assertive and aggressive — in a positive way," she says. "I needed tools. I felt we could fix anything if we could find the right tools."

An experimental vaccine offered at that time through John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica turned out to be her best option, or tool. With this "immunotherapy," strains of weakened melanoma cells were injected into Karen in an attempt to trigger her own immune system to destroy melanoma cells. The eight injections — two each on both sides of the stomach and two each on both sides of the armpits — felt like a bunch of bee stings, says Karen, but they also offered perhaps the boost her body would need to battle the cancer. The injections, at first, were required every six weeks, but now, only every six months.

The same immunotherapy, along with other experimental melanoma vaccines, are offered today as part of clinical trials at the UCSF Cancer Center. After more than four years of the therapy, "I've never felt anything but fabulous," says Karen.

Even though she's sold her art and decorating business, she still maintains a fast-paced schedule. She serves on the board of the hospitals auxiliary for UCSF Stanford Health Care and is immediate past president of the UCSF/Mount Zion Auxiliary. For both groups, she helps raise money for patient programs and equipment. Perhaps most importantly, she is a valuable resource for patients — those with cancer and others — who are learning to cope with disease and to be proactive in their care. And the mother of two daughters still finds time to play golf three days a week.

Her main project now is helping to make sure "Friend to Friend," a unique cancer boutique operated by the UCSF/Mount Zion Auxiliary, will open by the November target date. She knows, first-hand, what cancer patients need. "I remember, after my first melanoma surgery, I couldn't find a bra that didn't rub against my incision." The boutique will serve as a one-stop shop for cancer patients, their families and friends. It will carry wigs, scarves, prostheses and other items.

Being around hospitals so much today, after having spent so much time as a patient, does not bother Karen. "My brushes with cancer have inspired me to become more involved with sick people," she says. "The work has been rewarding. In a way, the disease has actually given me more than it's taken away."

For more information, call the Melanoma Detection and Treatment Center at UCSF at 885-7546.

— Andy Evangelista

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Arts & Performances

CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES

Former UCSF Chancellor Haile Debas, dean of the School of Medicine, established the free Chancellor's Music Series to enrich the quality of life at UCSF and the community. All concerts will be performed by professional musicians from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m., in Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus Ave. Here's the line-up:

Oct. 15: San Francisco Symphony artists Stephen Paulson on the bassoon, Eugene Izotov on the oboe and Robin Sutherland on the piano open the series with French music of the 16th and 20th centuries.

Oct. 22: Violinist Ian Swenson, one of the very few musicians to have been awarded the top prize in both the International Violin Competition and the International Chamber Music Competition of the Naumberg Foundation, will perform Bartok's Sonata for solo violin.

Oct. 29: Violin soloist Lisa Lhee will be accompanied by pianist Mark McCray of the San Francisco Conservatory.

Nov. 5: Violinist Wei He and pianist John Chernoff perform Franck's Sonata in A major.

Nov. 12: Chamber music celloist Jennifer Culp and pianist Betty Woo perform Beethoven's cello sonata, Op. 102, No. 2 in D major.

Nov. 19: San Francisco Symphony artists Julie Ann Giacobassi on the English horn, Eugene Izotov and Roger Weismeyer, both on the oboe, perfrom Beethoven's Trio for two oboes and English horn.

Dec. 10: Kum Mo Kim and Sam Oliver, both violinists, join Roxanna Jacobsen on the viola, David Thei on the cello and Max Wright on the bass in a performance of Dvorak's string quintet.

Cole Hall Cinema

Films are shown Thursdays and Fridays in Cole Hall, located in the Medical Sciences Bldg., 513 Parnassus Ave.

Admission prices are $2 children; $2.50 students/Millberry Fitness Center members; $3 UCSF staff/other students and $3.50 general public. Tickets can be purchased at the door only. For more cinema information and the updated schedule, which is subject to change, call 476-6932.

Open Enrollment

If you are choosing an HMO for your health plan during open enrollment this year, your options have broadened. You now have access to all the primary care physicians and specialists at UCSF Stanford Health Care through the Brown & Toland Medical Group, which is expanding its network to include all Stanford physicians as well as some local community physicians in San Mateo County, effective Jan. 1, 1999. When signing up with your health plan, be sure to choose your doctor through Brown & Toland Medical Group. For more information about UCSF Stanford Health Care, call 1-800-756-9000. For information on Brown & Toland Medical Group, call 1-800-CALL MDS.

UCSF

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To Our Neighbors
October–December 1998

UCSF hosts public meetings to discuss campus at Mission Bay

Proposition 1A may garner $21 million for UCSF

UCSF begins construction on patient cancer center

UCSF
University of California San Francisco
3333 California Street, Suite 103, San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

To Our Neighbors

Center to translate cancer research into care

Scientists, patients and city leaders, including Mayor Willie Brown, celebrated the July 7 groundbreaking for the clinical cancer center building at UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center, part of UCSF Stanford Health Care.

Expected to open next year, the new outpatient building will complement UCSF's state-of-the-art cancer research building that opened last year. While basic scientists explore cancer's most fundamental causes, clinical researchers are exploring ways this knowledge can be applied, providing patients with access to the latest experimental protocols.

"The new building will help to develop a structure that encourages dialogue between lab and clinical scientists and therefore encourages translation of lab research into new therapies," says Frank McCormick, director of the UCSF Cancer Center and Cancer Research Institute.

Chris T. Anderson

Chancellor Mike Bishop, left, with Frank McCormick, director of the UCSF Cancer Center and Cancer Research Institute, at the July 7 groundbreaking ceremony for an outpatient cancer center.

The five-story, 88,000-square-foot building being built at the corner of Sutter and Divisadero streets in San Francisco will house a radiation therapy center; a patient-oriented breast care center that will include diagnostic and cancer risk evaluation services; and integrated programs for melanoma, prostate, lung, gynecological cancers and others. The facility also will have an infusion center for chemotherapy, as well as doctors' offices and will offer overhead walkway access to UCSF/Mount Zion.

UCSF has been a progressive force in cancer science for the past 50 years. In the mid-1970s, J. Michael Bishop, now UCSF Chancellor, and Harold Varmus, now director of the National Institutes of Health, discovered cancer-causing genes called oncogenes. Their work, which opened new doors for exploring the genetic mistakes that cause cancer and formed the basis for some of the most important cancer research happening today, was lauded with the Nobel Prize.

Advanced lung cancer trial

Researchers at the UCSF Cancer Center are recruiting patients with advanced lung cancer for a clinical trial of a novel drug that they hope will inhibit the growth and spread of cancer.

To qualify for the trial at UCSF/Mount Zion, part of UCSF Stanford Health Care, patients must have advanced non-small cell lung cancer, a recurrence of the disease following surgery or radiation therapy, and have had no previous chemotherapy treatments. For more information, call trial coordinator Greg David at 885-7283.

Drug reduces hip fractures by 56 percent

An osteoporosis drug can reduce the risk of hip fractures by 56 percent among women who have never suffered a spinal fracture, according to UCSF researcher Dennis Black, PhD.

"These results are dramatic," said Black, UCSF professor of medicine and epidemiology. "No other therapy has been shown to work in such a wide spectrum of women with osteoporosis to reduce the most devastating of fractures — those that occur at the hip."

The new findings from the landmark Fracture Intervention Trial, a collaborative effort of UCSF and 11 other academic medical centers, show that alendronate also reduces the chance of painful spine fractures by 49 percent in women who have never had a spine fracture. Among women in the study who did not have osteoporosis, fractures were less common. However, this group did achieve increases in bone mineral density.

Alendronate, which is available as FOSAMAX, was developed by Merck & Co. Inc.